

I would like to thank you for this chance to speak to the committee. I am Sue Bailey, the Program Manager for The Yellowstone Co Council on Aging Resource Center which serves seniors and disabled adults of Yellowstone County and surrounding areas. We assist our clients finding services such as transportation, financial assistance, housing, in-home care, food, legal assistance and provide advocacy. Assistance is personalized to the individual's specific needs and there are no fees for our services.

A disable client wrote; "Thank you for all your help during the past year.... You make me feel safe and I appreciate it. Pat Kelly"

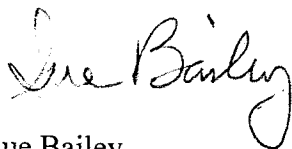
The Resource Center provided service to over 2400 clients between 7/1/07-6/30/08 with over 600 individuals assisted w/ state programs such as Medicaid, Energy Share, Elderly Homeowner/ Renter Credit and Big Sky Rx. We also assisted over 2300 individuals w/ federal programs such as Medicare and its associated programs.

The Resource Center Staff provided 32 educational presentations with over 1200 individuals attending w/ topics as diverse as "Being a Good Medical Consumer" to Fair Housing Rights.

I guess our value to our community is best illustrated by a section of a letter a recent client sent to our Congressmen:

"I am writing to tell you of the good work done by The Resource Center here in Billings, Montana. I live in Columbus, Montana and am disabled... I tried to wade through the mountains of insurance carriers to determine which would be the most beneficial for me in (sic) 2009. The more I read the more confused I became. I saw an ad in the Yellowstone Council on Aging paper for help with the Medicare part D program by The Resource Center. Thank God! These people are one of the best examples of something government does right. They are efficient, knowledgeable of the subject matter, prompt and professional. They are so helpful and really understand how each insurance carrier works so you can make an informed choice....When I was finished with the process I felt I had made my choice based on knowledge as well as it being an easy and stress free process. ...**Please continue to fund this program as we seniors who have used their assistance know how important it is.** I am proud to say our tax dollars are going for such a invaluable service. Sincerely Sara Preece"

The Resource Center recently finished the last of the federal funding which had been the major support for this pilot program. The Aging and Disable Resource Center model is finding national and state support as the most effective way to serve our clients, with more ADRC sites planned in Montana. The Resource Center provides an important saving to state and federal government by assisting the client to most effective and efficient use of the programs available to them. State funding would be a great help to continuing this critical program.



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Copy
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DATE 1-27-09
HB 2

January 1, 2009

Congressman Denny Rehberg
1201 Grand Ave., Ste. 1
Billings, MT 59102

Dear Congressman Rehberg,

I am writing to you to tell you of the good work done by The Resource Center here in Billings Montana. I live in Columbus Montana and am disabled. I can no longer walk and can only use my left arm now due to MS. I tried to wade through the mountains of insurance carriers to determine which would be the most beneficial for me for 2009. The more I read the more confused I became. I saw an ad in the Yellowstone Council on Aging paper for help with the Medicare part D program by The Resource Center. Thank God! These people are one of the best examples of something government does right. They are efficient, knowledgeable of the subject matter, prompt and professional. They are so helpful and really understand how each insurance carrier works so you can make an informed choice. These people not only aided me in choosing but made it possible to do it all by phone as I am unable to drive. When I was finished with the process I felt I had made my choice based on knowledge as well as it being such an easy and stress free process. My thanks to Sue Bailey and the other people who have assisted me in the past at the Resource Center in Billings. **Please continue to fund this program as we seniors who have used their assistance know how important it is.** I am proud to say our tax dollars are going for such a invaluable service.

Sincerely,

Sara Preece

Sara Preece

*Wishing you joy, peace and love
this Christmas...
and always.*

*Dear Sue,
Wishing you & yours a blessed
Christmas thru out the year of 2009.
Thank you for all your help during the
past year. I will be getting out letters
to the gov. for your wonderful guiding hand.
You make me feel safe & I appreciate it. Love
Pat Kelly*